Fire Ecology Intern

Fire is one of the dominant ecological processes affecting vegetation in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service is monitoring vegetation response to the 2007 Corral Fire and other fires. The intern will perform vegetation monitoring in established burn plots and may also participate in other field projects with the park's vegetation group. Office work will involve data entry, organization of project files, and data analysis, if interested. There is the opportunity to learn and work with the federal resource agencies' new fire monitoring database, FFI. This is an excellent opportunity to work with the unique Mediterranean vegetation of southern California with an active and congenial group of plant scientists.

Major Duties:
- Revisit and measure vegetation plots in the 2007 Corral Fire including plant density, cover and diversity. Other plots may also be revisited including pole oaks, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, annual grassland or native grassland.
- May assist in the field with other park vegetation projects when additional personnel are needed
- Data entry into FFI, update and organize legacy fire monitoring data
- May provide mapping assistance if familiar with GIS
- May take on selected projects to analyze data and provide summary reports

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:
- Undergraduate degree in the biological sciences; familiarity with the southern California flora and general botany.
- Ability to identify plants to species using a key; ability to gather field data with accuracy.
- Ability to perform computer work processing and database management.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and geographic information systems (ArcGIS) is desirable.
- Ability to compile and organize information to assist with technical reports.
- Capacity to travel by foot and perform strenuous physical activities on and off trail and under difficult conditions; knowledge of field GPS use is desirable.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized.
- Good oral and written communication skills and ability to follow oral and written directions.
- Valid driver's license is required.
- Must have own transportation to and from worksite. Government vehicles are available for intern use within the scope of their internship.

Compensation:
A stipend of $20 per workday is available. Intern will be paid monthly or as worked out by the intern supervisor. Full time interns from outside the area may be eligible for shared housing.

Work Site and Conditions:
- Office projects will require working in a comfortable office environment with a computer, reference documents and other technical resources.
- Field projects will require work outdoors in the Santa Monica Mountains and may require moderately strenuous hiking on steep slopes, work in isolated areas, long exposure to high and low temperature extremes, and potential encounters with poison oak, ticks, bees and yellow jackets, and rattlesnakes.
- Intern projects can be part time (usually 6 months) or full time (usually 12 weeks).
- Intern will work weekdays. Schedules are flexible with advance co-ordination   with the project supervisor.
- Fingerprint and/or background check may be required.

To apply send letter of application, resume, three references and unofficial transcript by email to sheila_braden@nps.gov

For additional information contact: sheila_braden@nps.gov

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